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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 19, 2007

INSIDE

New editions of 'Cuba and the Coming American Revolution'

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Venezuela: pro-imperialist opposition protests changes to constitution

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON AND RÓGER CALERO

CARACAS, Venezuela—A march of several thousand here October 23 kicked off a series of opposition mobilizations against proposed amendments to the country's constitution. Marchers, confronted along the way by smaller rallies of government supporters, scuffled with cops, who tossed tear gas canisters into the opposition crowd.

Venezuela's National Electoral Council has set December 2 for a referendum on the amendments, to be voted on as a package. In August, President Hugo Chávez proposed 33 changes to the country's constitution, and government ministries and community groups subsequently proposed an additional 36. The amendments range from eliminating presidential term limits, to bringing the Central Bank under direct presidential control, shortening the workday with no cut in pay, and creating a "popular militia" branch of the armed forces.

The 69 amendments were debated and approved by the National Assembly, all of whose seats are held by pro-Chávez parties.

The bulk of the proposals involve changes to the country's political and

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N.Y. state moves toward federal ID card system

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK—With the agreement of the Department of Homeland Security, New York governor Eliot Spitzer is moving to institute a federally approved driver's license for state residents.

Backing off his earlier plan to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain the same kind of driver's license as other New York residents, Spitzer announced October 27 the creation of three types of licenses. One type of card will meet new federal standards for "secure" driver's licenses required under the Real ID Act, a federal law that is to be implemented nationwide by 2013. It would require proof of legal residency.

The Real ID Act, adopted by U.S. Congress in 2005, is a step toward instituting a national identification card. It requires states to standardize licenses into a single national ID card, and establishes a database with personal information on state residents that will be accessible to the federal government and authorities in other states.

The federal law establishes that state's driver's licenses and ID cards will not be accepted for "federal purposes," such as boarding a plane or entering a federal facility, unless they

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Pakistan government suspends civil liberties

Billions in U.S. aid to continue for 'antiterror' war

AFP/Getty/Mohammad Malik

Cops arrest lawyers protesting Musharraf government in Multan, Pakistan, November 6.

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, November 6—The Bush administration says it will continue to send billions of dollars in military aid to the government of Pakistan despite the imposition of a state of emergency by that country's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. U.S. officials have made it clear their priority is bolstering a critical ally in Washington's "global war on terrorism" in the region.

On November 3 Musharraf suspended Pakistan's constitution, dissolved the Supreme Court and four

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UN vote calls for an end to U.S. embargo against Cuba

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—For the 16th year in a row, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution October 30 calling for an end to the decades-old U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.

The vote was nearly unanimous. Only the governments of the United States, Israel, Marshall Islands, and Palau voted against the resolution. Micronesia abstained.

The vote took place a week after the Bush administration announced three new measures against Cuba.

Waged for nearly half a century, the U.S. economic war against Cuba has caused $222 billion in losses for that Caribbean nation, said Cuban foreign minister Felipe Pérez Roque during the General Assembly debate on the resolution.

This aggressive policy, he noted, goes back to the beginning of the revolution. It includes blocking Cuba's access to medicines; needed industrial, farm, and

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Push needed to regain sub drive momentum

BY PAUL PEDERSON

A strong start is keeping the *Militant* subscription campaign ahead of pace. With two weeks to go, however, nine local areas fell behind last week and 215 subscriptions were sold, the lowest weekly total of an otherwise vigorous campaign.

Militant campaigners need to map

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NEW YORK CITY ❖ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Among the Speakers

OUR TRANSFORMATION & THEIRS
From Subprime to Subhuman,
the Real Perspective under American Imperialism
Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

BE LIKE CHUI, CHOY, AND SÍO WONG
A Chinese View of the Cuban Revolution
Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine and *Our History Is Still Being Written*, just back from China

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- Young Socialists national meeting 1 p.m.
- Join 'Militant' subscription sales teams Noon
- Pathfinder Print Project volunteers (location to be announced) 9:30 a.m.

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Spanish and English translation will be provided

Toronto forum protests anti-Asian assaults

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO—A series of assaults against Asians fishing on lakes north and east of Toronto has met with protests from the Chinese community and organizations such as the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC). The Asians attacked have mainly been Chinese immigrants.

The assaults and the need to fight them were taken up at a Militant Labor Forum held here October 19.

Victor Wong, executive director of the CCNC, and John Steele, a retired meatpacking worker and member of the Communist League, were the panelists.

Wong outlined six separate incidents that have taken place over the past several months. In two cases of what racists call "nipper tipping," Asians were thrown off bridges while fishing. A middle-aged Asian couple had their car window smashed in. In yet another case, racists wielding baseball bats and axes drove off Asian fishermen.

"What was troubling to us was that the York Regional police initially told the media that the incidents had no racial basis," Wong said. "We called on the police to begin a full investigation and bring in hate crimes experts."

Steele said these assaults take place in an atmosphere created by the broader anti-China and anti-Asian propaganda promoted by the capitalist rulers of Canada as a weapon in their trade competition. "Racism is rooted in the political economy of the system we live under—capitalism," he said. It is a tool used to drive down the wages of those targeted by racism in order to generate superprofits and to weaken and divide the working class as a whole.

Steele reviewed high points in the U.S. Black rights struggles of the 1950s and '60s, the successful battle to overthrow apartheid in South Africa, and the socialist revolution in Cuba that has laid the basis for eventually eliminating racism once and for all.

Steele noted that he had been involved in a strike at Quality Meat Packers in 2004 that broke down anti-Chinese stereotypes held by some workers, because Chinese workers proved to be among the best fighters. The huge mobilizations by undocumented Latino workers in the United States demanding legalization of their status and the protests against the unfair treatment of six Black youths in Jena, Louisiana, "show that the route of mass mobilization strengthens our confidence in our ability to fight racism," Steele said.

In the discussion period, some members of the audience pointed out that "hate crimes" laws can give the capitalist government a tool to use as they see fit to victimize working people.

Maoris protest New Zealand 'antiterror' raids

Militant/Helen Mulrennan

ROTORUA, New Zealand—More than 400 people, overwhelmingly Maori of the Tuhoe *iwi* (tribe), marched here October 25 to demand the release from jail of Tuhoe activist Tame Iti and two others. They protested police raids 10 days earlier on Maori towns—part of a national "antiterrorism" operation resulting in the arrests of 18 political activists to date. Two days later, Tuhoe representatives led a march of more than 600 in Auckland. Hundreds marched in other cities and towns across New Zealand.

—RUTH GRAY

Sweden: Cuban 5 defenders win support at concert

BY DAG TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—About 70 people, mostly youth, attended a solidarity concert in nearby Haninge organized to promote the campaign to free five Cuban revolutionaries unjustly imprisoned in the United States.

The five were framed up and are serving long sentences, accused of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and other charges, because of their role in providing revolutionary Cuba with information on rightist groups operating in Florida that have carried out violent attacks on Cuba.

Playing at a youth cultural center, three bands performed in front of a large banner with pictures of the Cuban Five, as they are known.

Most of those in the audience were new to the cause. One of them, Irene Larsson, said she passed by a literature table at the train station an hour before the concert and decided to go. "I didn't know anything about the case of the five before, but I thought it was interesting."

The concert was organized by the Committee for the Five and the band Black Carlota. It was moderated by Filip Tedelund, a member of the Young Socialists.

"The five are not victims but revolutionaries," Tedelund said. "They are not unique in Cuba, which has a long tradition of revolutionary fighters acting selflessly to defend their country and revolution, and to go on international missions of solidarity with oppressed peoples." He noted that 300,000 Cubans volunteered to fight in Angola in the 1970s and '80s to help defeat invading South African troops. Today tens of thousands of volunteer Cuban doctors are serving in countries throughout the world.

Tedelund said the campaign to win the release of the Cuban Five has made progress, and "now we are planning to get out to schools to get the truth out."

Caridad Pérez González, from the Cuban embassy in Stockholm, participated in the event and helped answer some of the questions about Cuba that some of the young people had in informal discussions.

A number of people signed up to help with the defense campaign.

THE MILITANT

'Links individual challenges to system'

"I read the 'Militant' to expand my capacity to work toward liberation. Linking the challenges facing the individual with the systemic obstacles designed to keep people oppressed is easier through studying this publication. I find the '25, 50, 75 Years Ago' column one of the most useful in the paper."

—Farhad Karim
New Orleans

Farhad Karim works with the People's Hurricane Relief Fund in New Orleans.

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Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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Venezuelan constitution

Continued from front page
territorial organization. They would bring existing community councils into official government structures. The councils are neighborhood-based groups of workers, peasants, students, and others active in government-sponsored "missions"—social programs aimed at expanding access to education, health care, culture, and job training. The councils will be able to obtain and manage government funds for projects they decide on.

Many government supporters say the moves to increase the centralization of powers in the hands of the president will help combat corruption and cut through red tape that workers and peasants often bump into as they fight for better living conditions. Others support the measures as a way to avoid direct confrontation with the rule of industrialists, bankers, and large landowners by setting up new structures while leaving existing institutions fundamentally intact.

"Two states will exist," said William Barreto, vice president of the Caracas Municipal Youth Institute, in an October 24 interview. "We will keep the institutions and organizational forms from bourgeois society at the same time that we build a parallel government with a socialist character."

While the opposition argues shrilly that the package would eliminate private property, the amendments guarantee five forms of property that are described as public, social, collective, mixed, and private.

"Private property is to be respected," said Barreto. "Our president has said that what we are after is the diversification of property."

The package also includes a number of popular measures that are likely to raise the expectations of Venezuela's workers and peasants. Such proposals include the expansion of state ownership of large landholdings that are currently in the hands of private owners, a ban on forced overtime, and bringing taxi drivers, street vendors, and bus operators under the national social security system.

"Many articles will broaden the political participation of youth and students," said Alberto Castelar, a deputy in the National Assembly, in an October 23 interview. One provision would lower the voting age to 16. In addition, according to Castelar, two new government ministries for youth and students would be set up, and college campus workers would be eligible to vote in university elections.

Gerardo Blyde, an opposition leader and former legislator, told the press, "Chávez is seeking to reduce the territory held by the opposition and give his intention to remain in power a legal foundation."

The leaders of the student government at the Central University of Venezuela (UCV) in Caracas have been at the center of opposition activities in recent months. They argue that the constitutional changes will weaken civil liberties and further consolidate Chávez's power.

Students comprised a slight majority of today's march, which started out at the UCV. A contingent of medical students carried a banner with pictures of Venezuelan scientist José María Vargas and Cuban revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara, asking, "Which one is the father of Venezuelan medicine?"

The pro-imperialist opposition forces here have raged against the Chávez administration for its close collaboration with revolutionary Cuba. This cooperation includes 20,000 Cuban volunteer doctors and other medical personnel who staff free clinics in working-class neighborhoods throughout the country where most Venezuelan doctors will not go.

Miami vigil protests killing of teen by cop

Militant/Maggie Trowe

MIAMI, October 30—A candlelight vigil here today protested the police shooting of 19-year-old Gracia "BG" Beaugris five days earlier. Among the 150 people attending were members of the Miami-Dade NAACP and Haitian American community activists. Beaugris was shot to death in an alley next to his apartment on his way home from the laundromat. Officer Christopher Villano stopped and frisked Beaugris and several others. According to witnesses and police reports, Villano had his left arm around Beaugris's neck when he shot him three times using his right hand.

—ELLEN BRICKLEY

N.Y. state moves toward federal ID card

Continued from front page
meet the law's requirements.

Under the new Spitzer plan, a second type of state license would be available for those who frequently cross the border to Canada. Almost a substitute for a passport, it would require proof of citizenship, complying with the so-called Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

The third type of driver's license would not require proof of legal residency. It would be clearly marked to show that it is not for "federal purposes." Many are concerned that such cards would be used by cops to target undocumented workers for arrest and deportation.

The governor's move to create a three-tiered license system "will have a devastating impact on our communities," said the New York Immigration Coalition in a call for a protest outside the governor's office against the plan.

The right-wing group Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit attempting to block Spitzer's proposal on the grounds that it will give rights to undocumented immigrants.

Spitzer, who came under sharp criticism for his original proposal from Democratic and Republican politicians, told the press the new plan was the "perfect" policy. "You get Real ID, which Congress has determined is the right security measure, [and] you get driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants," he told the press. The two leading Democratic presidential contenders, senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, back Spitzer's latest proposal.

The plan is expected to be in place by mid-2008, making New York the first state to implement the new federal license.

Besides New York, Arizona, Vermont, and Washington state have reached agreement on federally approved driver's licenses.

In addition, laws in several states require people to show government-issued photo ID to vote. In Georgia, passage of such a law in 2005 sparked protests by civil rights groups and unions. They objected that the measure would limit voting rights, especially among those in rural areas, Blacks, immigrants, and elderly workers, who are less likely than others to have the required identification documents.

'Liberty City 7' frame-up trial in Miami under way

BY BERNIE SENTER

MIAMI—A federal trial is under way here against seven men charged with conspiring to blow up the Chicago Sears Tower and bomb FBI offices in several cities. The case is built on the testimony of two paid FBI informers, one of whom posed as a representative of al-Qaeda.

The Liberty City Seven, as they are known, were arrested in June 2006 in a high-profile FBI-SWAT unit operation in Liberty City, Miami's main Black neighborhood. They are members of a religious group, Seas of David, that held meetings there. They face up to 70 years in prison on charges of plotting to levy war against the United States and to provide material support to al-Qaeda.

The defense says the FBI informers concocted the plans and tried to lure the defendants into going along with the idea, coaxing them into making incriminating statements secretly taped by government agents. At one point, the agent provocateurs convinced the men to take an oath of allegiance to al-Qaeda. The informers were paid more than $100,000 for their work.

The FBI never found any weapons, ammunition, or any other evidence of plans to blow up the Sears Tower or anything else. At a news conference after the arrest of the seven, FBI deputy director John Pistole admitted that the plot was "more aspirational than operational." He admitted the group had no actual connection to al-Qaeda.

On October 13, federal judge Joan Lenard dismissed two jurors and one alternate because they had read a brochure on terrorism found in the jury room. It had been passed out by Miami police the day before. The brochure features a police badge and instructions on what to do to thwart a terrorist threat. Lenard overruled the defense argument for a mistrial.

The judge also blocked efforts by the defense to present the criminal history of one of the FBI agent provocateurs.

The defense contends that Narseal Batiste and the other six defendants were merely trying to obtain money from the FBI informers by feigning interest in plans dreamed up by the agents themselves. The defense has pointed out that in spite of the abundance of wiretaps and videos made of the defendants, they expressed scant interest in al-Qaeda.

Judge Lenard has agreed to allow testimony from the government's leading "expert witness" on his theory of how ordinary individuals become "terrorists." The judge described it as "a valid social scientific method that offers a theoretical explanation for the defendants' alleged actions."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

The Fight to Free the Cuban Five and Defending the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Chauncey Robinson, Young Socialists. Fri., Nov. 16. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *3926 Mission St. Tel: (415) 584-2135.*

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Kurdish Struggle for National Self-Determination. Speaker: Janet Post, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 16. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *188 W Wyoming Ave. Tel: (215) 455-2682.*

Young Socialist runs for mayor of Pittsburgh

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY MARK STUBENS

PITTSBURGH—"Our campaign offers a fighting perspective and political program for workers, farmers, and youth. It's the working-class alternative to the twin parties of capitalism, the Republicans and the Democrats," said Ryan Scott, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, speaking here at a November 2 campaign rally.

Scott, 24, is a member of the Young Socialists and a sewing machine operator at a pillow factory outside Pittsburgh.

"Our campaign counters the grinding assault by the employing class against working people at home and abroad," Scott said. "We have joined with other workers fighting to organize unions or to use their unions to fight the bosses' attacks."

In recent weeks some students and young workers here have joined socialist campaign teams on campus tables, at actions to oppose imperialist war, in the coalfields of West Virginia, and in working-class neighborhoods in Pittsburgh.

"I met the Socialist Workers Party campaign at a street table here in Squirrel Hill last month," said Eric VanDevender, 22. "I got interested because I've been disillusioned by the two-party system for some time. It's important for socialists to promote a working-class alternative to the capitalist parties."

VanDevender joined the candidate on the last weekend of campaigning before the election. He also joined the campaigners at the October 27 regional protest in New York City against the war, where they called for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and other "coalition" troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The socialist campaign is a comprehensive analysis of our society. It addresses politics in the U.S. and abroad with a class-conscious approach," said Cassandra Markoe, 22, who campaigned last weekend.

Militant/Tony Lane

Young Socialist Ryan Scott, who ran for mayor on Socialist Workers Party ticket, speaks at October 9 mayoral debate. At left, Democratic incumbent mayor Luke Ravenstahl.

"The Socialist Workers Party is the only party that speaks up for the workers in the face of the rich," said Tom Marvit, 26, a student at the University of Pittsburgh. Recently he joined others on a team to West Virginia to bring the Socialist Workers campaign to miners and students there.

"We explained how the Crandall Canyon mine disaster in Utah could have been avoided, and why we should oppose Washington's cowardly wars," said Marvit. "One thing that has impressed me the most about the campaign is the idea that Pittsburgh's problems are a reflection of problems workers of the world face."

The mayoral campaign in Pittsburgh is over now, but the socialists campaign 365 days a year. Young Socialists around the country are gearing up for the 2008 elections, where they will support the Socialist Workers Party's presidential ticket and candidates for state and local offices. In some places Young Socialists will run on the SWP ticket.

The YS invites all young people repulsed by the rulers' unrelenting offensive against working people, both at home and abroad, to join us in the coming months. Help petition and campaign for the Socialist Workers Party candidates, the working-class alternative to all the capitalist parties.

Push needed on sub drive

Continued from front page

out plans in their city and region to regain the momentum.

In one successful effort, partisans of the socialist paper in New York organized a special target week effort over eight days and brought in 64 subscriptions. Dan Fein sold 16 subs in New York, becoming the top seller last week. Sixteen is the highest individual sub total of any week since the drive began.

Teams in New York sold a number of times at the Jacob Riis public housing complex on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Jayson Tirado, a 25-year-old resident of that complex, was killed October 21 by an off-duty cop, and some of the angry residents were glad to see a newspaper that took their side.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the sub campaign is cooking. There supporters have reached 90 percent of an already increased goal of 145. Last week, in one afternoon, teams sold 18 subscriptions in the main Black neighborhood there.

"One worker who bought a subscription lived in New Orleans during the 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster and was rescued by helicopter," Des Moines campaigner Joe Swanson reported. This worker was attracted to the *Militant* coverage on the California wildfires. "He saw the similarities in how workers were hit the hardest," Swanson said.

Many immigrant workers are now moving into this neighborhood. Swanson reported that 10 of the 18 subs were sold to immigrants from Latin America and Vietnam.

The next day, a team from the Twin Cities in Minnesota sold seven subscriptions going door-to-door in the packinghouse town of Austin, two hours south of there. A number were sold to workers at a Quality Pork Processing slaughterhouse.

Please be sure to keep reports coming on highlights of sales in your area and the weekly top sellers.

Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive
Sept. 29 – Nov. 18 ♦ Week 5 of 7

Country	Quota	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND*	**65**	**53**	**82%**
UNITED STATES			
Des Moines, IA*	**145**	**130**	**90%**
Denver*	**9**	**8**	**89%**
Washington, DC*	**160**	**140**	**88%**
Pittsburgh*	**65**	**54**	**83%**
Newark, NJ*	**130**	**106**	**82%**
Philadelphia	**105**	**85**	**81%**
New York*	**315**	**254**	**81%**
San Francisco*	**120**	**93**	**78%**
Chicago*	**90**	**69**	**77%**
Los Angeles*	**100**	**75**	**75%**
Twin Cities*	130	90	69%
Seattle*	100	69	69%
Atlanta*	135	93	69%
Boston	60	41	68%
Carrollton, GA	135	92	68%
Houston*	90	61	68%
Miami*	140	87	62%
Albany, NY	20	11	55%
U.S. Total	**2,049**	**1,558**	**76%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
LONDON	**70**	**58**	**83%**
Edinburgh	50	30	60%
UK Total	**120**	**88**	**73%**
CANADA*	**125**	**89**	**71%**
AUSTRALIA*	45	31	69%
SWEDEN	30	20	67%
Int'l totals	**2,434**	**1,839**	**80%**
Goal/Should be	**2,300**	**1,643**	**71%**
*Raised goal			

Third area increases fund quota

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Supporters of the *Militant* continue to make progress in the eight-week campaign to raise $100,000 for the socialist newsweekly by November 25. Just over $12,000 was contributed and sent in for the second week in a row.

The campaign remains slightly behind schedule. With three weeks remaining, just over half of the goal has been raised. We will need to increase the weekly collections to $15,000 to achieve the goal on time. Reaching out broadly is the key.

Partisans of the *Militant* in Los Angeles raised their quota by $500 to $9,000. That increase helped to reduce the shortfall in total quotas to $725. Their example needs to be emulated.

"The *Militant* is an important anti-imperialist newspaper," said Elio Hoyos, a janitor and member of Service Employees International Union Local 615. Hoyos spoke November 3 at a *Militant* fund-raising event in Boston.

"Fellow fighters have told me they consider it very necessary. There are no big-business restrictions on what it covers. It brings clarity. It unites us. I invite you to join in getting this paper out to other workers," Hoyos said.

He was joined on the platform by Ari Sahakian, who has been active in demonstrations opposing the U.S.-led war in Iraq. "I've been reading the *Militant* since the January 27 antiwar action," Sahakian said. "Other newspapers I've seen at antiwar actions present them as an effort to get Congress to take action. But as the *Militant* points out, it's the marchers who are taking the action."

The featured speaker was Cindy Jaquith, a writer for the *Militant*.

Militant supporters in Philadelphia increased their goal by $800 following a successful fund meeting October 20. Michael Taber spoke on the political legacy of Thomas Sankara, leader of a popular revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso from 1983 to 1987. The audience of 20 contributed $1,000 to the fund.

To make a contribution, contact local distributors listed on page 8 or send checks payable to the *Militant* at the address listed on page 2.

$100,000 'Militant' Fund Drive
Sept. 29 – Nov. 25 ♦ Week 5 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
FRANCE	**250**	**215**	**86%**
AUSTRALIA	**1,400**	**1,200**	**86%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	**600**	**647**	**108%**
London	**1,500**	**974**	**65%**
UK total	**2,100**	**1,621**	**77%**
CANADA	**4,100**	**2,986**	**73%**
UNITED STATES			
San Francisco	**11,000**	**7,655**	**70%**
Miami	**3,000**	**2,070**	**69%**
New York	**15,000**	**9,622**	**64%**
Newark, NJ	3,500	2,131	61%
Los Angeles*	9,000	5,374	60%
Seattle	7,000	4,152	59%
Des Moines, IA	2,000	1,185	59%
Philadelphia*	4,300	2,235	52%
Chicago*	7,000	3,220	46%
Pittsburgh	3,500	1,500	43%
Boston	2,800	1,170	42%
Washington, D.C.	2,800	1,110	40%
Atlanta	9,000	3,427	38%
Houston	3,000	1,105	37%
Albany, NY	125	40	32%
Twin Cities	4,700	1,250	27%
U.S. total	87,725	47,246	54%
NEW ZEALAND	3,000	1,571	52%
SWEDEN	700		0%
Intl'l totals	**99,275**	**54,839**	**55%**
Goal/Should be	**100,000**	**62,500**	**63%**
*** Raised goal**			

Canada auto union deal stirs debate in labor movement

BY JOE YOUNG

TORONTO, November 3—A debate has erupted in the labor movement in Canada over an agreement by the Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) with auto parts maker Magna International under which the workers will be allowed to vote on whether to join the union, but will give up the right to strike.

The agreement, announced October 15 by CAW president Basil "Buzz" Hargrove and company chairman Frank Stronach, stipulates that binding arbitration will be used to resolve disputes. Union stewards will be replaced with "employee advocates" to work with joint union-management "fairness committees" in each plant.

In plants where a majority votes for the union, workers will be covered by a new CAW-Magna national collective agreement. Annual wage increases will be based on a plant's performance and the manufacturing wage index.

"The CAW accepts Magna's culture of 'fair enterprise,'" said Hargrove and Stronach in a joint statement, published in the October 17 *Globe and Mail*.

The statement struck a strong Canadian nationalist tone. "We're both passionate about Canada," they declared.

Canada-based Magna is one of the biggest auto parts companies in the world, with annual revenue of $24 billion. It has 61 plants in Canada with about 18,000 workers. The CAW currently represents workers at three of the plants.

Many unionists and others have sharply criticized the agreement. CAW Local 88, which organizes 2,000 workers at the CAMI Automotive plant in Ingersoll, Ontario, voted against the agreement.

In an open letter to Hargrove, Chris Buckley, president of CAW Local 222 in Oshawa, which has 23,000 members, stated, "I am writing to you, in as forceful terms as I am able, to let you know that I cannot in good conscience support the National Union's agreement with Magna International. . . . Buzz, a 'no-strike' clause goes against the fundamental rights of unionized workers."

"Without the right to strike you've got nothing. Hargrove is turning the union into a business with no product to sell," Brad Cannons, a line worker in the car chassis plant, told the *Militant* November 1 as he was going into a Local 222 meeting in Oshawa. The meeting voted unanimously to reject the deal with Magna.

The deal with Magna will be debated by the more than 800 delegates to a CAW national council meeting in December.

CAW official backs Liberal Party

The agreement "denies workers exactly those powers that underpin the right of collective bargaining, namely the right to strike and elect their own shop stewards," said former New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Ed Broadbent in a statement published in the October 30 *Globe and Mail*.

Former Hargrove assistant Sam Ginden, now a York University professor, criticized the no-strike deal in an opinion column in the October 26 *Toronto Star*. "Perhaps this is not surprising from a CAW president who personally campaigned for the Ontario Liberal government," he wrote. The Liberal Party was recently returned to office in Ontario's provincial elections.

The Liberals and Progressive Conservatives are Canada's two main capitalist parties. The New Democratic Party, a social democratic party with ties to the unions, has long been supported by most of the Canadian labor movement.

The CAW president also supported the Liberal Party in the 2006 federal elections, publicly presenting then-prime minister Paul Martin with a union jacket.

During the Ontario election campaign, Hargrove said, "I see absolutely no reason to vote NDP," and praised the record of Liberal premier Dalton McGuinty.

The official CAW position was that workers should vote for the candidate in the best position to defeat the Conservative Party. The Canadian Union of Public Employees campaigned for the NDP.

John Steele contributed to this article.

N. Carolina farm workers rally over conditions

Militant/Greg Preston

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina–Some 150 tobacco workers and their supporters rallied here October 28 to demand that tobacco giant R. J. Reynolds meet with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee to discuss conditions in the fields. FLOC is fighting for improvements for tobacco workers not covered by agreements reached with the North Carolina Growers Association in March.

Workers face conditions of virtual indentured servitude, subminimum wages, labor camps with miserable conditions, heat stroke deaths, and illnesses from chemicals. The tobacco workers, most of them from Mexico, come to North Carolina under "guest worker" permits for part of the year.

The march and rally drew United Mine Workers of America retirees from Virginia and West Virginia, a group of Seafarers International Union members from Maryland, and representatives of other unions.

—SUSAN LAMONT

Athens event launches 'Declarations of Havana'

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS—A well-attended meeting was held here October 21 to celebrate the publication of the new Arabic and Greek editions of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*. It was sponsored by the Cuban embassy and Diethnes Vima, the Athens-based publisher of the new books.

PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

Cuban chargé d'affaires José Cala told the audience, "The Declarations explain how the plunder of Latin America provided a basis for the development of capitalism and imperialism in Europe. This plunder continues in new guises, making the Declarations as relevant today as they were 45 years ago."

The other speakers at the event were Nikos Karandreas, president of the Greek-Cuban Friendship Association, and Natasha Terlexis, president of Diethnes Vima.

Cala introduced two special guests, the chargé d'affaires of the Venezuelan embassy and the ambassador of Palestine.

More than 50 people attended the event. Participants included five airport workers and several immigrant workers from the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.

Fourteen copies of the book were sold at the meeting: eight in Greek, five in Arabic, and one in Spanish, along with five other titles on the Cuban Revolution.

In the month leading up to the event, 24 copies of the new books were sold at political events, while 50 copies of the Greek-language edition were bought by the Greek-Cuban Friendship Society for their kiosks and 56 were ordered by local bookstores. The October 23 issue of *Rizospastis*, the Communist Party of Greece daily, carried a report on the book launch.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 19, 1982

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—Responding to daily attacks along the northern border of the country with Honduras, the governing Junta of National Reconstruction here declared the entire region a zone of military emergency on November 4.

Commander Lenín Cerna, head of Nicaraguan State Security, told reporters that between August and October of this year, counterrevolutionary units based in southern Honduras had violated Nicaraguan air space 58 times; attacked border posts 37 times; conducted five ambushes against the Sandinista People's Army; attacked three towns along the border; and carried out 33 incursions or infiltrations into Nicaraguan territory.

These attacks have claimed the lives of 37 Sandinista soldiers and wounded 38 others.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

November 18, 1957

In his speech at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Russian Revolution on Nov. 7, Kremlin boss Khrushchev demarcated the political area on which the bureaucracy is attempting to consolidate its rule. "Such occurrences as under Stalin's personality cult," Khrushchev promised, "should never be permitted in the future."

He then marked off the forward limit of concessions by declaring Stalin a "dedicated Marxist-Leninist" whom "the party and Soviet people will give his due." He addressed a warning to those attempting to carry de-Stalinization too far, who "call leaders . . . Stalinists, giving it negative meaning. Critics of this kind are either thorough slanderers or people who have descended to the rotten positions of revisionism."

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

November 19, 1932

PITTSBURGH—Conditions of the working class in this most highly industrialized section of the country represent what most nearly approaches a cross-section of proletarian life in the country as a whole. More than 100,000 jobless fill the narrow, winding, filthy streets. Steel workers at the mills are lucky if they have three day's labor a month. Steel is the pivot industry in the Allegheny region. And Pittsburgh is a "one factory town."

Discontent among the factory masses is literally seething. The unemployed showed their will to fight as early as the first year of the depression in the tremendous demonstrations under the leadership of the Communists. Small and isolated strikes, like the militant strikes of the clothing workers and the bakers at present, crop up all over town.

‘Advance of U.S. class struggle is intertw

New editions of ‘Cuba and the Coming American Revolution,’ in Spani

Below is the foreword by Mary-Alice Waters to the second edition of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes. This new edition will be released next week in Spanish by the Venezuelan publishing house Monte Ávila as part of the 2007 Venezuela International Book Fair, taking place November 9–18 in Caracas.

Pathfinder Press is simultaneously releasing the new edition for distribution worldwide in both English and Spanish.

The book tells the story of the Cuban Revolution’s political impact on a generation of young people in the United States in the early 1960s, the place of the revolution in rebuilding the communist movement in those years, and its continued weight in the U.S. class struggle to the present. As Waters explains, working-class battles in this country, including prospects for making a socialist revolution here, are “and will continue to be inextricably intertwined with the defense of the conquests of the Cuban Revolution.”

Since it was first published in English, Spanish, and French in 2001, the book has become one of Pathfinder’s most widely read titles. In the foreword Waters describes the response to the book’s opening chapter by one reader, Ramón Labañino, one of five Cuban revolutionaries who have been imprisoned in the United States on frame-up charges for nearly a decade. The new edition is dedicated to the Cuban Five (see box on facing page).

In addition to releasing *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, Monte Ávila this year has published another of Pathfinder’s most widely distributed books, the Spanish translation of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Both will be featured at a November 16 presentation by Monte Ávila of several of its new titles.

During the Venezuela book fair Pathfinder is organizing several presentations of its titles as well, including *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*.

The book fair’s theme this year is “The United States: A Possible Revolution.”

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is available from www.pathfinderpress.com or from distributors listed on page 8.

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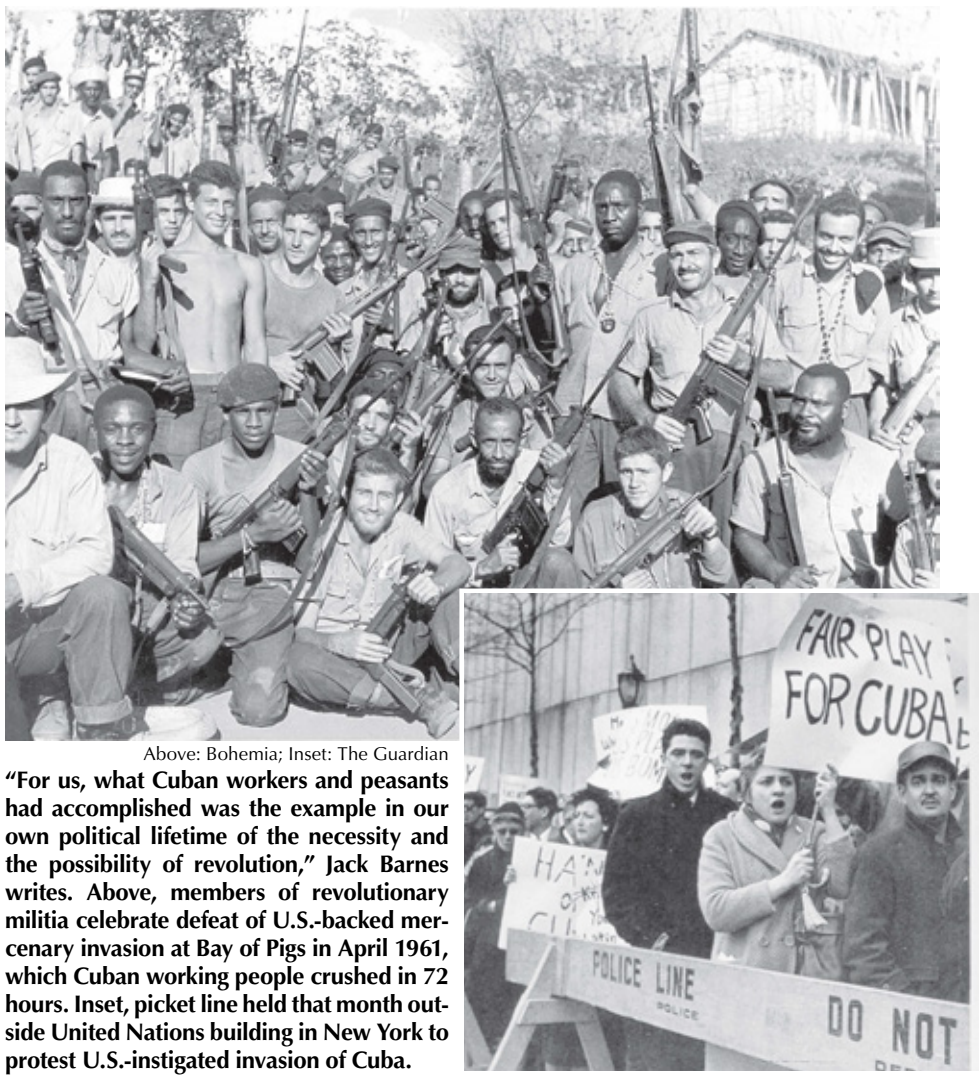
—Olympia Newton



Above: Bohemia; Inset: The Guardian

“For us, what Cuban workers and peasants had accomplished was the example in our own political lifetime of the necessity and the possibility of revolution,” Jack Barnes writes. Above, members of revolutionary militia celebrate defeat of U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at Bay of Pigs in April 1961, which Cuban working people crushed in 72 hours. Inset, picket line held that month outside United Nations building in New York to protest U.S.-instigated invasion of Cuba.

The victory of Cuban working people at Playa Girón punctured the myth of U.S. imperialism’s invincibility. It left us with the conviction that the Cuban Revolution would be at the center of the class struggle inside the United States as long as the working class was in power in Cuba. We were certain that would be the case for the rest of our lives. And it has been.

Jack Barnes
March 2001
Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

In less than seventy-two hours of combat in April 1961 along the southern coast of Cuba near the Bay of Pigs, Cuba’s Revolutionary Air Force, militias, police, and Rebel Army defeated an invasion by some 1,500 Cuban counter-

Foreword to 2007 edition

revolutionaries financed, armed, trained, scripted, and deployed by Washington. The stunning victory, Yankee imperialism’s first military defeat in the Americas, had repercussions around the world—not least of all within the United States itself.

Jack Barnes takes that historic moment as the starting point for *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution.* It was the moment when Cuba no longer appeared as yet another potential Latin American victim of the most powerful empire in history, but emerged as its equal. “For us, what Cuban workers and peasants had accomplished,” Barnes writes, “was the example in our own political lifetime of the necessity and the possibility of revolution, of not only how to fight but how to fight to win, of the capacity of ordinary human beings to transform themselves as they confront challenges and take on responsibilities they would have previously deemed impossible.”

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is not primarily a book about Cuba, however. Above all, it is about the struggles of class-conscious working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and why the course of the class battles accelerating here today is and will continue to be inextricably intertwined with the defense of the conquests of the Cuban people.

“The greatest obstacle to the line of march of the toilers,” notes the author in these pages, “is the tendency, promoted and perpetuated by the exploiting classes, for working people to underestimate ourselves, to underestimate what we can accomplish, to doubt our own worth.” What the workers and farmers of Cuba showed us is that with class solidarity, political consciousness, courage, focused and persistent efforts at education, and a revolutionary leadership of a caliber like that in Cuba—a leadership tested and forged in battle over years—it is possible to stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds *and win*.

That was the lesson internalized in the early 1960s by a vanguard of young people inside the United States aided, encouraged, and educated by veteran workers and farmers of the Socialist Workers Party. Their story is told here in “1961: Year of Education.” It was originally published as the foreword to *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington’s First Military Defeat in the Americas,* a collection of speeches, documents, and testimony by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Vice President José Ramón Fernández published by Pathfinder Press in early 2001 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the victory at Playa Girón.

In “1961: Year of Education” Jack Barnes describes the impact of the opening years of the Cuban Revolution on youth in the United States who were already being radicalized by their involvement in the advancing, mass, proletarian-based struggle to bring down the “Jim Crow” system of segregation in the U.S. South (on which South Africa’s institution of apartheid was modeled), and roll back other deeply entrenched forms of racial discrimination throughout the country. He recounts the work of the students who established a campus chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee at Carleton College in Minnesota in the decisive few months culminating in the April 19 victory at Playa Girón, a committee that in the heat of events briefly became the largest campus chapter in the country. He describes the class-struggle lessons young people learned as they went through these experiences and tells how they began building the Young Socialist Alliance in the course of this work.

The second chapter of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution,* “There Will be a Victorious Revolution in the United States Before a Victorious Counterrevolution in Cuba,” is based on talks given by Barnes in both New York City and Seattle in March 2001 at meetings to launch *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs,* which had come off the press only days before, and to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of that revolutionary victory. The audiences spanned the generations, from those who were already active partisans of the Cuban Revolution at the time of the Bay of Pigs to socialist youth who were just then making this chapter of history their own. Among the 450 participants in these gatherings were dozens of volunteers from one end of the country to the other whose labor had made possible the quality production of the book in record time.

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs, published in both Spanish and English, was presented at a March 22–24 conference in Havana on “Girón: 40 Years Later,” where the Cuban hosts provided each participant with a copy of the book. During that gathering the political and military leaders of revolutionary Cuba under whose hand victory had been won, including Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, joined to discuss the events that occurred four decades earlier with a U.S. delegation, some of whose members either fought as part of the U.S.- trained and -financed Brigade 2506, helped prepare the CIA invasion plans, or acted as apologists and advisers for the administration of President John F. Kennedy.

❖

Nearly fifty years after the revolutionary victory that brought down the U.S.-backed military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista on January 1, 1959, the U.S. rulers remain as committed to the necessity of overthrowing the Cuban Revolution as they were when the workers and farmers of Cuba, and the young people drawn to their struggles, led by the July 26 Movement and its Rebel Army, fought their way into history and began taking control of their own destiny. The reasons are not hard to understand, and they have everything to do with the subject of this book.

From the class perspective of the U.S. rulers, there was never anything irrational in their hatred for the radical land reform, mass campaign to wipe out illiteracy, nationalization of housing and slashing of rents, outlawing of racial discrimination, nationalization of basic industries, drawing of women into the workforce on a large scale, establishment of a popular militia, and other actions taken by the Cuban people and their revolutionary government. Nor were Washington’s policies toward the Cuban Revolution rooted in “national security” concerns or the strategic conflicts of the “cold war.”

vined with defense of Cuban Revolution'

sh and English, to be presented at Venezuela International Book Fair

The course of Cuban working people was simply an unbearable challenge to the assumed property "rights" of the U.S. ruling families, who feared that the example set by the first socialist revolution in the Americas would be emulated elsewhere in our hemisphere. What drives Washington is "not fear of the Cuban Revolution" alone, as the Second Declaration of Havana proclaimed in February 1962, but fear of the Latin American revolution. "Fear that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free peoples of the Americas."

Since the first edition of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* was published some six and a half years ago, the spreading wars, barely contained national and international economic and financial crises, and sharpening class conflicts that have rattled the confidence of the U.S. rulers have done little to diminish these fears.

All the political and economic trends pointed to by Jack Barnes in these pages have only accelerated and deepened. The profit margins of the employers depend even more on "cutting real wages and benefits, speeding up production, lengthening the workweek, increasing part-time and temporary labor, and reducing government-funded social security programs." The post-2001 upswing in the business cycle following the bust of the "irrational exuberance" of the 1990s was, like its predecessor, the product not of accelerated capacity-expanding capital investment, but of "an enormous mountain of debt and a giant speculative bubble of derivative

"The example set by the people of Cuba remains as important as it was the day they took power."

'debt instruments.'" "Multibillion-dollar mergers that substantially increase the concentration of capital" continue to drive stock markets higher as the debt burden rises to levels unsurpassed in the history of finance capital.

"The vulnerability of world capitalism to sudden and destabilizing shocks" pointed to in these pages is once more being confirmed by the still spreading fallout from the inevitable crash of the drive by U.S. financial giants in recent years to press repackaged bundles of so-called subprime mortgages on banks in Eastern Europe and the semicolonial world and on other buyers at home and abroad—as if the risk of defaults was no longer a factor. The misery this collapse will bring to tens upon tens of thousands of working-class families losing their homes, of course, is of no more concern to the capitalists than the "downward-spiraling catastrophe" that hundreds of millions of toilers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia have been living through for almost two decades.

All the major trends in the evolution of world capitalism discussed in this book, as well as the interrelated trajectory of U.S. imperialism's foreign, military, and domestic policies, were already under way well before the first edition was published in the spring of 2001. That was nearly six months before the new U.S. administration of George W. Bush seized on the September 11, 2001, assault on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon as a rationalization to announce what the U.S. rulers today call their "global war on terrorism." The foundations for the course that accelerated with the combined imperialist assault on Afghanistan in October 2001 and the U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Iraq in March 2003—including the strengthening of federal police and spy agencies, encroachments on political rights, and implementation of Washington's long-established state policy of "regime change"—had been carefully built over the preceding years by the U.S. rulers under Republican and Democratic administrations and congressional majorities alike.

Above all that course is determined by the U.S. rulers' preparations to meet what they too know is inevitable—the growing resistance of the working class and other exploited producers in the United States and around the globe as we enter what will be decades of sharpening interimperialist conflict, economic, financial, and social convulsions, and class battles.

As those explosive pressures deepen and spread—the product of how capitalism works, not how it sometimes fails to work—another historic transformation is also accelerating.

In its ceaseless search for ever cheaper labor, U.S. finance capital is drawing into its factories, fields, and mines growing millions of workers from beyond its borders. They come from Mexico first and foremost, as well as elsewhere in the Americas, but also in rapidly increasing numbers from Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe, and Russia. Driven by the lash of economic necessity to leave their homelands, they bring with them their own class-struggle experiences and combativity, broadening the political and cultural horizons of working people as a whole in the United States.

It is from this enriched and increasingly diverse working class that a new political vanguard is today beginning to emerge in struggles driven by the most fundamental needs of the toilers—the need to join forces to protect life, limb, and nature from the inexorable drive for profits that determines every move of the employers. Nowhere has this been more visible than in the outpourings of millions of workers and their families, immigrant and U.S.-born, who in 2006 and 2007 took to the streets in cities and towns across the continent demanding legalization of immigrant workers as they began restoring May Day in this country to its working-class roots. "The proletarian movement in the United States," notes Jack Barnes, is beginning to be transformed "into something more and more recognizable as the combative mass vanguard of the class that will overthrow capitalism."

❖

This is the world in which the example set by the people of Cuba remains as important as it was the day they took power, demonstrating in practice what it takes to break the stranglehold of imperialist exploitation and defend those conquests. Explaining that truth to workers and farmers in the United States as they find themselves propelled into struggles that lead them to rethink many long-held prejudices in quite unexpected ways is not simply an act of working-class solidarity, however important that may be. It is a proletarian necessity, essential to the internationalist political education and transformation of the working class itself. As the Cuban people proudly say of their aid to the peoples of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere around the world, "Those who are not ready to fight for the freedom of others will never be ready to fight for their own."

Shortly before *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* came off the press in 2001, Colin Powell, the new secretary of state, explained Washington's uncompromising stance toward Cuba's revolutionary government. He did so more accurately than he perhaps intended. Testifying April 26, 2001, before a congressional committee, he responded to the question of why the U.S. government refuses to alter its decades-long policy toward Cuba. Powell replied that in China, Russia, and Vietnam "you can see leaders who the world is changing." But in Cuba, he said, Castro "hasn't changed his views in any way."

The secretary of state got it only partially right, of course. As with each of his predecessors, his inability to fathom the human beings driving the Cuban Revolution was above all a class blindness. It is not only Fidel and the broad and deep revolutionary leadership of Cuba who have not changed their revolutionary convictions. It is the people of Cuba in their overwhelming majority who have never surrendered. Who refuse to subordinate the interests of working people to the prerogatives of capital. Who stand ready, as always, to aid revolutionary struggles wherever they may

Continued on page 8

Militant/Jorge Lertora

The U.S. rulers are preparing to meet "the growing resistance of the working class and other exploited producers in the United States and around the globe as we enter what will be decades of sharpening interimperialist conflict, economic, financial, and social convulsions, and class battles," Waters writes. Above, May 1, 2007, march of 150,000 in Chicago demanding legalization of all undocumented immigrants.

Book is dedicated to the Cuban Five

For Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René

Five exemplary products of the Cuban Revolution who today, even if against their will, serve with honor on the front lines of the class struggle in the United States.

New edition! Now available from Pathfinder

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

By Jack Barnes

With a new foreword by Mary-Alice Waters

"There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before there will be a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba."

That 1961 statement by Fidel Castro remains as true today as when it was spoken. This is a book about the class struggle in the U.S., where the revolutionary capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. It is about the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made.

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Defense of Cuban Revolution

Continued from page 7

occur, by any means necessary. Whose message to would-be invaders remains the same as at Playa Girón: If you come, you stay.

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The most important response to *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* has been among new generations of readers who discovered something unanticipated in its pages. Those new readers, we are honored to say, included U.S. Federal Prisoner #58734-004, Ramón Labañino Salazar, one of Pathfinder's many readers behind bars, and one of five heroes of the Cuban Revolution who has been imprisoned in the United States now for nine years. Like his comrades-in-arms Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González at the time of their arrest in September 1998, Ramón was living and working in the United States, tracking the activities of Cuban counterrevolutionary organizations that operate with impunity here, and providing the Cuban government with advance notice, when possible, of their murderous plans for sabotage and armed actions against the Cuban people. He was framed and convicted on charges of acting as an unregistered agent of a foreign power and conspiring to commit espionage. In what can best be called an act of political retribution aimed at punishing the Cuban people for their continuing revolutionary defiance of Washington's demands that they "change," he was handed a life sentence, which he is currently serving in U.S. federal prison in Beaumont, Texas.*

After reading the foreword by Jack Barnes to *Playa Girón/ Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas,* reprinted here as "1961: Year of Education," Ramón wrote to express his appreciation. While he had read numerous books and documents about Playa Girón, Ramón said, in this one he had learned something he "had never read in any other book on this subject." For the first time, he noted, he had a feel for "the direct influence of the Cuban Revolution, its example and impact, on the people of the U.S., and on the education of the revolutionary left movement and the movement in solidarity with our country." It gave evidence once again, Ramón added, "that our peoples are fraternal and invincible."

Many young readers in the U.S. reacted similarly to learning how a previous generation of young socialists here in the United States had waged an intense political battle in defense of the Cuban Revolution in the weeks leading up to, during, and after the Washington-organized invasion in 1961. This previously unrecorded chapter in the history of the communist youth movement was to its continuators today not just an interesting account of something long past. It has become a model of mass work to be emulated, a guide for action today.

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It is particularly appropriate that the impetus for this second edition of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* has come from the Venezuelan publishing house Monte Ávila and will be presented at the November 2007 Venezuela International Book Fair, whose theme will be "The United States: A Possible Revolution." The posing of that question by workers, farmers, and youth who have been in the vanguard of the popular struggles that have marked Venezuelan politics the last decade, and recognition that the answer given is of decisive importance for the future of us all, registers the sharpening class struggle and deepening class polarization in our hemisphere. Even more, it signals the political strengthening of the toilers from the Bering Straits to the tip of Tierra del Fuego.

When Fidel Castro defiantly announced to the world on March 13, 1961, that "there will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba," he was not gazing in a crystal ball, or engaging in verbal bravado. Nor did those of us whose political lives began in those days of struggle think it was an exhortation. It was a political course to guide a lifetime of action—one that remains today as compelling and necessary to the future of humanity as it was then.

* Gerardo Hernández, framed on an additional charge of conspiracy to commit murder, was given two consecutive life sentences. Antonio Guerrero received a life sentence; Fernando González, nineteen years; and René González, fifteen years. Ruling on the defendants' appeal in August 2005, a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals annulled the convictions and ordered a new trial based on the five having been denied a fair trial in Miami. That decision was reversed a year later by the full appellate court and the convictions were upheld. Appeals on additional grounds are continuing. The case of the five has generated a broad international campaign denouncing the harsh conditions of their imprisonment and demanding their release.

Militant/Bill Arth

Attorney Leonard Weinglass speaks at August 19 event in Atlanta organized by supporters of the campaign to free the Cuban Five. From behind prison bars, the five revolutionaries continue to serve on the front lines of the class struggle in the United States.

New Sankara titles available

Pathfinder Press has just released two new books in English and in Spanish: *We Are the Heirs of the World's Revolutions: Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983–87*, and *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*. They contain speeches by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the Burkina Faso revolution in West Africa.

Originally published as pamphlets, the two titles have been upgraded to books—with larger type and new indexes, maps, and charts. Each contains a new preface by Pathfinder president Mary-Alice Waters and an introduction by Michel Prairie.

We Are the Heirs of the World's Revolutions is $10 and *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* is $8. They can be ordered through the locations listed on page 8 or online from www.pathfinderpress.com.

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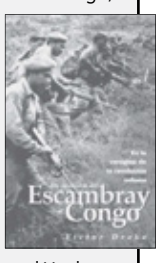

The author describes how easy it became after the Cuban Revolution to take down the rope segregating blacks from whites at a dance at the town square, yet how enormous was the battle to transform social relations underlying all the "ropes" inherited from capitalism and Yankee domination. $17. **Special price: $13**

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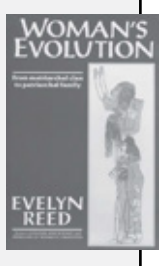

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EDITORIAL

Oppose moves to national ID card

In all the debate over the driver's license plan now being pushed by New York governor Eliot Spitzer, the big-business media has blurred over the key issue. This plan, the first in a major state to comply with the 2005 Real ID Act, is a threat not only to immigrant workers but to all working people.

The Real ID law will turn state licenses into a single federally approved ID card. It requires all states to adopt rigorous standards for receiving a driver's license by the year 2013, including presentation of a birth certificate, Social Security card, and proof of legal residency. It would create a database of personal information available to the federal government and authorities in other states. The measure takes another step toward establishing a de facto national identity card.

Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security secretary, welcomed Spitzer's move. Chertoff has long campaigned for a standardized state license, arguing that it gives cops "a critical new tool to prevent terrorism and to protect our homeland."

But the Real ID's ultimate target is not "terrorists." It is working people, particularly those who resist the bosses' attacks and speak out against government policies—from workers organizing unions, to Blacks combating discrimination, immigrants marching for legalization, and protesters against Washington's wars abroad. As in other capitalist countries, a national ID card would make it easier for cops to track militant workers. It would help employers create blacklists of "troublemakers."

Another part of the push toward a federalized driver's license is the requirement in several states that people show a driver's license or other government-issued photo ID in order to vote. Civil rights organizations have objected that such measures will tend to discriminate against residents of rural areas, Black workers, immigrants, and former prisoners—sections of the population that have less access to such documents.

Immigrant rights groups have rightly expressed concern that the Spitzer plan, which provides for a special driver's license for those who cannot prove legal residency, will be used to finger immigrants without papers. Immigrant workers, regardless of their status, should have equal access to driver's licenses.

The moves toward a national identity card are among the steps—carried out under the banner of "homeland security"— the U.S. ruling billionaires are using to prepare to meet worker and farmer resistance at home in coming years. These include the expansion of domestic police spying; the appeals to report "suspicious" packages in public places; the curtailment of habeas corpus and Fifth Amendment protections of the accused; and the creation of a domestic military command, the Northern Command. All these moves should be opposed as attacks on workers rights.

UN vote: end U.S. embargo on Cuba

Continued from front page

transportation equipment; and cultural and sports exchanges.

Pérez Roque refuted the claim by U.S. delegate Ronald Godard that the embargo is a matter only between Washington and Havana and should not come before an international body. Pérez Roque pointed to several examples of the extraterritorial enforcement of the embargo affecting many countries' normal trade relations with Cuba.

He cited the freezing of U.S. accounts in the Netherlands Caribbean Bank, a $164,000 U.S. fine on the British company PSL Energy Services for exporting equipment to Cuba, and the consequences of threats of sanctions, which prevented the Japanese company Shimadzu from selling Cuba infrared spectrophotometers used in food inspections, and blocked the German company Basf AG and its Latin American subsidiaries from selling Cuba herbicide-related products. Pérez Roque said at least 30 countries were affected by the extraterritorial enforcement of U.S. economic sanctions between May 2006 and May 2007.

Pérez Roque described the U.S. Treasury Department's concerted campaign to disrupt Cuba's relations with financial and banking institutions in third countries. That effort was accelerated, he said, after U.S. intelligence services gained access to confidential information from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications, which handles nearly all payments and exchanges of messages among financial institutions.

Cuba, Pérez Roque said, "will not surrender. It fights and it will fight with the conviction that defending our rights today is tantamount to defending the right of all the peoples represented in this Assembly."

Anti-Cuba measures

On October 24 President George Bush announced new measures as part of Washington's anti-Cuba campaign. He appealed to other governments to support a "Freedom Fund" to help finance groups in Cuba opposed to the revolution. He also offered to license "nongovernmental organizations" and religious groups to provide computers, Internet access, and scholarships to Cuban students.

Pérez Roque called the offer to license computers in Cuba laughable, pointing to the widespread and growing use of computers on the island. He said that today there are 600 Youth Computer Clubs "that give free access to the Internet to more than two million Cubans every year."

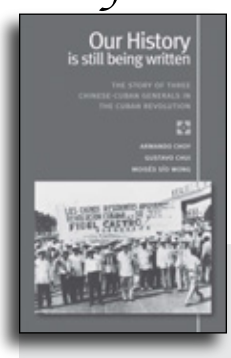
As for the offer of scholarships, Pérez Roque said that Cuba has 65 universities with 730,000 Cuban students enrolled, in addition to 30,000 youth from 120 countries studying there on scholarships.

In response to the White House's latest attacks, Cuba's foreign minister listed 12 points that "the U.S. president should propose as aid" to the island, including: an immediate lifting of the U.S. embargo and travel ban, the release of five Cuban revolutionaries unjustly held in U.S. prisons, the extradition of U.S.-trained murderer Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela, and the closure of the U.S. prison camp at Guantánamo Bay.

Meanwhile, in October a U.S. court sentenced a South Florida businessman, Víctor Vázquez, to two years in prison for "conspiring in a scheme to violate Cuba travel restrictions" through licenses issued to nonexistent churches, the *Miami Herald* reported. The government said Vázquez was involved in a business through which thousands of Cuban Americans visited Cuba. Kekalani Vázquez, his former wife, received three years' probation, and Yury Rodríguez, a travel agent allegedly connected to Vázquez, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison.

In the same case, real estate developer David Margolis was sentenced to two years' probation for falsely telling the government he was traveling to Cuba for religious purposes.

For further reading



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Pakistan

Continued from front page

provincial high courts, arrested hundreds of opposition leaders, and shut down privately owned news media. Musharraf had been informed that the Supreme Court was going to nullify his re-election last month on the basis that he is ineligible to continue as president while also heading the military.

The Musharraf regime, which first took power in a 1999 military coup, had initially been a protector of the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan. When Washington launched its drive to overthrow the Taliban-led regime after Sept. 11, 2001, Musharraf became an unstable but staunch U.S. strategic ally. Since the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, some Taliban and al-Qaeda forces have been operating out of Pakistan.

In recent years the Pakistani army has carried out joint operations against the Taliban with U.S. special forces on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Billions in U.S. military aid

The U.S. government has given an estimated $10 billion to Pakistan in the past six years. Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said November 5 that joint U.S.-Pakistani military operations would continue despite the state of emergency.

Whitman said U.S. military aid to Pakistan is about $80 million a month.

U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice said the administration would review aid to Musharraf in light of the state of emergency, but added, "We have to be very cognizant of the fact that some of the assistance that has been going to Pakistan is directly related to the counterterrorism mission."

U.S. president George Bush said, "We expect there to be elections as soon as possible, and that the president should remove his military uniform." But, he said, Musharraf "has been a strong fighter against extremists and radicals."

The crisis of the Musharraf regime has been fueled by opposition to its close cooperation with Washington's war moves. His regime has faced increasing challenges from bourgeois opposition parties, as well as from armed Islamist groups with ties to the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

Washington has encouraged Musharraf to negotiate a governing arrangement with leaders of opposition parties, including former prime minister Benazir Bhutto of the Pakistan Peoples Party, and to step down as head of the army.

Some 2,000 people have been arrested so far. In one of the biggest protests, 2,000 lawyers rallied outside the High Court in Lahore. Cops armed with tear gas broke up a meeting at the headquarters of the Pakistani Human Rights Commission in the same city. Some 500 opposition party figures have been arrested.

Supreme Court chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, who is under house arrest, called on lawyers and the population as a whole to continue to resist the state of emergency.

Musharraf accused the Supreme Court of releasing 61 men who he said were under investigation for "terrorist" activities.

U.S. 'war on terror'

The Bush administration has increasingly complained about what it says is the Pakistani government's poor job in combating "terrorism." Washington and Islamabad differed sharply over pacts Musharraf negotiated with tribal leaders last year to enlist them in the fight against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in the country's western border region and to reduce the presence of Pakistani troops there. The pacts failed, and when Musharraf ordered soldiers back into the area, many were killed or captured.

U.S. vice-president Richard Cheney made an unannounced visit to Islamabad in February to threaten Musharraf that U.S. aid to Pakistan could be cut unless al-Qaeda and the Taliban were hunted down more aggressively.

In July, 2,000 Pakistani soldiers had been sent to the mountainous Swat region to subdue Islamists, but were largely inactive for three months. The Islamist groups reportedly control 10 percent of the region. On November 1 the Pakistani military attacked a group of 500 armed Islamists in that area.